

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

63,37

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
★ APR 15 1933 ★
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Rare and Unusual Summer- Flowering Bulbs



EDWIN C. POWELL
8637 COLESVILLE ROAD
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND



Some of the uncommon things that are as easy to grow as Gladiolus, Dahlias, or Tuberose add much to the variety and attractiveness of the garden. Among them are the Spiderlily, Fairylily, and Tigerflower that bloom in the order named, and make bright spots in the garden from early summer until late fall. The Fairylily blooms at intervals during the entire summer; the Tigerflower from August until killed by frost. They have no troublesome pests, they increase rapidly, and are well worth a trial by all garden lovers. The Fairylily is particularly useful for growing in pots.

SPIDERLILY or SEA DAFFODIL

(*Hymenocallis (Ismene) calathina*)

Is a grand summer-flowering bulb that produces with great freedom large Amaryllis-like, pure white, fragrant blossoms 3 to 4 inches long and as large in diameter. Two to five flowers are produced on 18 to 24 inch stems and they appear in two to four weeks after planting the bulbs. Two to eight strap-shaped leaves about 2 feet long remain bright green until killed by frost. The blossoms have a deeply lacinated edge which makes them one of the most striking of the summer flowers.

The Spiderlily is of very easy culture, yet comparatively unknown. Plant in fairly rich light soil, preferably in groups of half a dozen or so, late in May or early June, covering 3 or 4 inches deep. Dig after frost kills the foliage and be careful not to injure the thick fleshy roots. Store over winter in a warm dry place—a temperature of 55 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit as provided on a shelf near the furnace has given me excellent results. They multiply rapidly by offsets, which should blossom the second year after removal.

Price 25 cents each; \$2.50 a dozen.

FAIRYLILY, RAIN LILY, ZEPHYR FLOWER

(*Zephyranthes rosea*)

Is a native of the warmer sections of the United States and hardy as far north as Virginia. With some protection they may be wintered as far north as Pennsylvania. They produce single rose-pink flowers 2 inches in diameter on a stem 8 to 10 inches high. They will give you much satisfaction for pot culture or window boxes, a dozen bulbs in a 7-inch pot making a grand display. Grown in this way most of the bulbs blossom at the same time, and they produce several crops of flowers during the summer.

Plant in the garden 1 to 2 inches deep and 4 to 6 inches apart. Late in the fall dig and store in a frost-proof cellar which is not too dry. Bulbs may be left in pots undisturbed for two or three years, after which they should be divided and repotted or planted outside. In the spring remove the topsoil and replace with a mixture of rich loam and old manure. then soak the pots and bring into growth. In the garden they produce several bulbs around the base of the old one, which, if removed in the spring and planted, will blossom the same or the following year.

Price 50 cents a dozen.

TIGERFLOWER or SHELLFLOWER

(*Tigridia pavonia*)

Is a tender plant, native of Mexico, which requires about the same treatment given *Gladiolus*. It is one of the most striking and gorgeous of the minor summer-flowering bulbs. No plant in my garden elicits so much comment from visitors. It has several sword-shaped, long pointed leaves, and a single stem which produces several brilliant flowers during the summer until killed by frost. The flowers which are fugitive and last only a day are 5 to 6 inches across, oddly marked, with a cup-shaped or saucer-shaped center. The cup is freely spotted; the three large petals are of shades of red, yellow, orange, or purplish. It is increased from seeds and corms, several of which are produced by each plant.

Plant in well-prepared soil when settled weather comes, 2 to 3 inches deep and 4 to 6 inches apart. Allow the corms to remain in the ground until the tops are killed by frost; then dig, spread out in a warm, airy place or tie the tops together and hang up until the bulbs are thoroughly dry. Store in a dry frost-free place, and protect from mice which are very fond of the corms. More than ordinary care is necessary in handling the corms after digging and in winter storage. The large fleshy roots must be carefully preserved without bruising. Do not remove the roots until ready to plant.

Price \$1.50 per dozen.